

The United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) is an independent, bipartisan agency created by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 to assist State and local election officials with the administration of Federal elections. The EAC provides assistance by disbursing, administering, and auditing Federal funds for States to implement HAVA requirements; conducting studies and other activities to promote the effective administration of Federal elections; and serving as a source of information regarding election administration.

In 2004, the EAC undertook its first effort to collect, on a national level, various data related to the administration of elections. HAVA mandates that the Commission collect information related to the processes and procedures used to register voters and to serve uniformed and overseas citizens wishing to vote. In addition to this basic voting information, the EAC sought to learn more about the voting process used by election officials. The EAC continued this process of collecting national data, once again, for the 2006 Federal election.

The first report the EAC issued regarding these data was *The Impact of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 on the Administration of Elections for Federal Office, 2005-2006*. The National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) of 1993 required the Federal Election Commission (and subsequently, the Election Assistance Commission) to report to Congress in the year following a Federal election on the impact of the Act on the administration of elections and to include recommendations for improvements in procedures, forms, and other matters affected by the bill. In June 2007, the EAC submitted this report to Congress.

The second report the EAC issued was the *UOCAVA Survey Report Findings for the 2006 election* (released September 2007). The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act

For 2006, the EAC merged the three election administration surveys into a single instrument, The 2006 Election Administration and Voting Survey. This report documents the results of this survey, along with the key findings of the NVRA and UOCAVA study reports, for the 2006 Federal general election.

(UOCAVA) of 1986 protects the voting rights of members of the uniformed services (on active duty), members of the Merchant Marine and their eligible dependents, the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and U.S. citizens residing outside the U.S. HAVA mandates that for each regularly scheduled general election for Federal office, the EAC shall collect comprehensive data from the States on all of the ballots sent to UOCAVA voters and received back by election administrators.

In addition to these two mandated studies, the Commission added a third survey in 2004. For 2006, the EAC merged the three election administration surveys into a single instrument, *The 2006 Election Administration and Voting Survey*. This report documents the results of this survey, along with the key findings of the NVRA and UOCAVA study reports, for the 2006 Federal general election.

The NVRA, UOCAVA and Election Administration and Voting Survey reports are available at www.eac.gov.